Infantry Combat Vehicles (BMP-I & II)

2477. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Infantry Combat Vehicles (BMP-I & II) were inducted in the Army in 1977 with a 15 years life-span requiring one mid-life overhaul;

(b) whether the overhauling facility for BMPs was meant to cover 100 vehicles and 210 engines;

(c) if so, how many vehicles and engines were overhauled till the end of 1998-99; and

(d) whether there is an accumulation of more than 110 BMP-I vehicles of 1981 vintage and around 500 engines awaiting mandatory overhaul?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The overhauling facility for BMPs was meant to cover 110 Infantry Combat Vehicle (ICV) BMPs-I and 210 UTD-20 Engines.

(c) A total of 56 ICV BMPs-I 70 UTD-20 Engines have been overhauled till the end of 1998-99.

(d) The overhaul of BMP-I vehicle and engines is done at 512 Army Base Workshop, Pune. The Workshop had a target to overhaul 305 ICV—BMPs I and 210 UTD-20 engines by March, 2002. 74 ICV-BMPs I and 452 UTD-20 engines are awaiting mandatory overhaul.

Development of attack helicopter by HAL

2478. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HAL is developing a low cost attack helicopter for the Army and three such Helicopters have already been delivered to them; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this project and its relation with the demand for the Advanced Light Helicopter by the services?